

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USNMR SHAPE BEL
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLE IT
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NICOSIA 0132

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC
USCINCEUR FOR POLAD
USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CY
SUBJECT: STATUS OF GREEK CYPRIOTS IN NORTH

BEGIN SUMMARY: GREEK CYPRIOT POPULATION IN NORTH
CONTINUES TO DECREASE SLOWLY. GREEK CYPRIOTS
ARE SUBJECT TO GREATER RESTRICTIONS AND CONTROLS THAN
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OTHER TFSC RESIDENTS. THERE ARE REPORTS OF ABUSE AND
MISTREATMENT, BUT THERE APPEARS TO BE NO GOVERNMENT-
DIRECTED PROGRAM OF HARASSMENT. PRESSURES FOR REMOVAL
ARE NOW MORE SUBTLE AND LONG TERM THAN IN THE IMMEDIATE
POST-WAR PERIOD. END SUMMARY

1. GREEK CYPRIOTS RESIDING IN TURKISH CYPRIOT

REGION NOW NUMBER SLIGHTLY LESS THAN 1,800, ALL LIVING IN THE KARPAS WITH EXCEPTION OF 13 INDIVIDUALS IN KYRENIA AREA. OVERWHELMING MAJORITY (1,300) IS CONCENTRATED IN RIZOKARPASO (TURKISH - DIPKARPAZ). ALL BUT A FEW OF THE REMAINDER ARE IN VILLAGES OF AYIA TRIAS (SIPAHI), YIALOUSA (MALTEPE) AND LEONARISSO (ZIYAMET). RATE OF MIGRATION TO GOC-CONTROLLED AREA FLUCTUATES, BUT HAS AVERAGED ABOUT 40 MONTHLY SINCE MAKARIOS-DENKTASH MEETINGS OF FEBRUARY-MARCH, 1977.

2. UNFICYP OFFICIALS NOTE THAT ALMOST ALL DEPARTEES IN THIS PERIOD HAVE BEEN EITHER CHILDREN OF SECONDARY SCHOOL AGE (12 YEARS AND ABOVE) OR ELDERLY PERSONS. REASON FOR DEPARTURE OF CHILDREN HAS BEEN CLOSURE OF SOLE GREEK SECONDARY SCHOOL IN NORTH (WHICH IS NOW BEING USED AS A TURKISH CYPRIOT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL). LONG RANGE EFFECT, BARRING CHANGE IN TURKISH CYPRIOT POLICY, WHICH DOES NOT PERMIT RETURN (EVEN FOR VISITS) OF MALE STUDENTS ABOVE AGE OF 15 OR FEMALES ABOVE AGE OF 20, WILL BE GRADUAL DEPOPULATION OF GREEK CYPRIOTS IN 25-55 AGE BRACKET, IF IT BEGINS TO OCCUR IN FUTURE, WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT INDICATOR OF CHANGE IN MENTAL ATTITUDE AND/OR TREATMENT OF GREEK CYPRIOTS REMAINING IN THE NORTH.

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3. GREEK CYPRIOTS ARE SUBJECTED TO GREATER RESTRICTIONS THAN MARONITES OR OTHER THIRD-COUNTRY RATIONALS RESIDING IN NORTH EVEN THOUGH TFSC OFFICIALS ASSERT THAT ALL TFSC CITIZENS ARE EQUAL, BE THEY GREEK OR TURKISH. FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON TREATMENT OF GREEK CYPRIOTS ARE BASED ON INFORMATION FROM UNFICYP AND SUPPLEMENTED BY MORE LIMITED EMBOFF OBSERVATIONS IN THE KARPAS.

4. THERE APPEARS TO BE NO PROGRAM OF OFFICIAL HARASSMENT, ALTHOUGH ON OCCASION GREEKS HAVE BEEN USED AS PAWNS IN POLITICAL DISPUTE BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES. (FOR EXAMPLE REFUSAL LAST YEAR TO PERMIT CHILDREN STUDYING IN SOUTH TO VISIT RELATIVES IN NORTH DURING EASTER). GREEK CYPRIOTS FOR MOST PART HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERNS TO UN OFFICIALS ABOUT HOSTILE ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS OF MAINLAND TURKISH IMMIGRANTS WHO ARE NOW THEIR NEIGHBORS. THIS HOSTILITY DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE UNIFORM, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN ENOUGH INCIDENTS TO AROUSE UNDERSTANDABLE CONCERN AND NERVOUSNESS. UNFICYP OFFICIALS STATE THAT TURKISH CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES APPEAR TO BE SINCERE

IN THEIR DESIRE TO AVOID INCIDENTS AND HAVE
THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED THE MORE SERIOUS ONE
WHICH HAVE OCCURRED. MOST FREQUENT COMPLAINTS
TO UNFICYP HAVE BEEN ABOUT VERBAL ABUSE, ROC
THROWING, KNIFE-BRANDISHING AND THIEVERY.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NICOSIA 0132

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5. QUESTION OF DENIAL OF ACCESS TO FIELDS AND
OCCUPATION OR TAKEOVER OF GREEK CYPRIOT FIELDS
AND PROPERTIES IS MORE SERIOUS. RELIABLE INFORMATION
ON THIS IS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN. IT APPEARS
THAT PROPERTIES AND FIELDS MOST FREQUENTLY AFFECTED
ARE THOSE FARTHER AWAY FROM THE VILLAGES. UN
OFFICIALS SPECULATE THAT SOME OUTLYING PROPERTIES

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MAY BE LOCATED IN MILITARY-CONTROLLED REGIONS AND
DENIAL OF ACCESS THUS RELATED.

6. INSTANCES OF PROPERTIES OR FIELDS BEING
TAKEN OVER BY MAINLAND IMMIGRANTS ARE PROBABLY MORE
RESULT OF INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVES THAN OF
GOVERNMENT ACTION. RECENTLY-TRANSPLANTED MAINLANDERS
OFTEN RETAIN THEIR ANATOLIAN CUSTOMS, INTER ALIA
ENCROACHMENTS ON AND DISPUTES OVER PROPERTY LINES.
TURKISH CYPRIOT POLICE OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD UNFICYP
THAT THEY EVICT THOSE WHO HAVE ILLEGALLY ACQUIRED OR
USED GREEK PROPERTIES. HOWEVER, IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT
IN SOME INSTANCES LOCAL AUTHORITIES MAY HAVE BEEN
GUILTY OF "BENIGN NEGLECT." COMPLICATING FACOR IS
THAT UNDER TFSC LAW ALL GREEK PROPERTY NOT OWNED
BY GREEKS ACTUALLY RESIDING IN NORTH IS HELD BY THE TFSC.
A PORTION OF LAND CURRENTLY FARMED BY GREEK
CYPRIOTS IS OWNED BY RELATIVES WHO HAVE NOW DEPARTED
THE KARPAS. THIS OF COURSE DOES NOT EXCUSE IRREGULAR
ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN GREEK LAND, BUT MAY BE REASON
FOR SOME OF THE ATTEMPTS.

7. LIMITATION ON FREEDOM OF TRAVEL IS QUITE STRICT.
TRAVEL AMONG THE VILLAGES CONTAINING GREEK CYPRIOTS
IS PERMITTED, BUT REQUIRES APPROVAL FROM THE LOCAL
POLICE ON A GENERAL NEED-TO-TRAVEL BSIS. TRAVEL
OUT OF THE KARPAS TO OTHER PLACES IN NORTHERN CYPRUS
IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE EXCEPT FOR MEDICAL REASONS.
PERMISSION TO VIIT THE SOUTH IS NOT GRANTED EXCEPT
FOR SEVERE MEDICAL REASONS OR ON OCCASION TO ATTEND
FUNERALS OF CLOSE RELATIVES. TRAVEL IS PERMITTED
WITHIN THE KARPAS FOR CHILDREN TO ATTEND THE TWO
REMAINING PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND FOR CHURCH ATTENDANCE.
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GREEK CYPRIOT FARMERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE THEIR
PRODUCE OUT OF THE KARPAS; BUYERS COME TO THEM.
(HOWEVER, THERE IS NO INDICATION OF PRICE DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST THEM). BY CONTRAST MARONITE VILLAGERS ARE
ALLOWED TO TAKE PRODUCE TO OTHER CITIES AND TO CROSS
TO GOC-CONTROLLED AREA.

8. IN SUM, GREEK CYPRIOTS FACE MANY RESTRICTIONS AND
SOME UNOFFICIAL HARASSMENT, BUT THERE APPEARS TO BE NO

TFSC OR MAINLAND TURKISH EFFORT TO FORCE THEM OUT IN THE
SHORT TERM. RATHER, TURKISH MEASURES, WHICH WE UNDER-
STAND ARE ON MAINLAND ORDERS, SUCH AS DENIAL OF
SECONDARY SCHOOL COUPLED WITH NO RETURN FOR THOSE WHO
LEAVE TO BE EDUCATED, AND SEVERE RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL
TO THE SOUTH SPELL ELIMINATION OF THE GREEK COMMUNITY
IN THE NORTH OVER THE LONGER TERM. AS THERE HAVE BEEN
NO RECENT INSTANCES OF DEPARTURES BY THE ABLE BODIED,
IT SEEMS THAT MOST OF THE TINY FRACTION OF THE
ORIGINAL GREEK CYPRIOT POPULATION THAT REMAINED IN THE
KARPAS THROUGH THE INTENSE AND SUCCESSFUL TURKISH
PRESSURES ON THE IMMEDIATE POST-WAR PERIOD ARE
DETERMINED TO HOLD ON AS LONG AS THEY CAN.
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